

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-02 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SSO-00

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O R 032200Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9792

INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UY, AR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR--PAN AM SERVICES; BILATERAL TALKS

REF: A. STATE 21105, B. MONTEVIDEO 342, C. BA 429, D. BA 8934 9 DEC

SUMMARY. FONOFF REPLY

TO EMBASSY NOTE OF DEC 10 REGARDING BILATERAL
TALKS AND PAN AM SCHEDULE PROBLEM SUGGEST INFORMAL TALKS BE
RENEWED MID FEB. NO MENTION MADE OF PAN AM PROBLEM NOR HAS
EMBASSY BEEN GIVEN ANY FIRM INDICATION THAT PAN AM DIFFICULTIES
MAY BE RESOLVED BEFORE SUGGESTED DATE. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPT'S
VIEWS ON NEXT STEPS TO BE TAKEN.

1. WITH REFERENCE REF A, PARA 3, AMBASSADOR REQUESTED MEETING WITH
TRANSPORT SECRETARY NOVARO, BUT APPOINTMENT NOT YET RECEIVED.
EMBASSY AGREES WITH DEPT'S SUGGESTION APPROACH TO NOVARO BUT
IN THE MEANTIME THIS POSITION HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS
DESCRIBED BELOW.

2. RINALDINI, RESPONSIBLE FOR TRANSPORTATION AFFAIRS IN ECONOMIC
BUREAU OF FONOFF, CALLED ON ECOMCOUNS JAN 31 WITH REPLY TO EMBASSY'S
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NOT OF DEC 10 (REF D). NOTE (TRANSLATION BELOW) MAKES NO REFERENCE

WHATSOEVER TO PAN AM'S SCHEDULING PROBLEM WHICH, AS DEPT WILL RECALL, WAS MENTIONED IN LAST PARA OF EMBASSY'S NOTE. RINALDINI SAID HE HAD BROUGHT NOTE OVER IN PERSON TO EXPLAIN THAT RESPONSIBLE GOA AUTHORITIES COULD NOT AGREE TO APPROVE--EVEN ON A PROVISIONAL BASIS--THE SHIFT ON PAN AM'S CHANGE OF GAUGE POINT TO CARACAS BEFORE BILATERAL TALKS WERE RESUMED. RINALDINI ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT GOA RECOGNIZED THIS CHANGE WAS IMPORTANT TO PAN AM AND THE USG AND BELIEVED IT COULD BE DEALT WITH AS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS UPON BEGINNING OF INFORMAL TALKS. HE SAID HE WAS VERY HOPEFUL FOR THE FUTURE OF ARGENTINE/US CIVIL AIR RELATIONS, CHIEFLY BECAUSE FONOFF WAS NOW GOING TO MAKE A MORE AND DECISIVE ROLE IN THESE TALKS AND THAT DNTAC WOULD HAVE LESS INFLUENCE.

3. ECOMCOUNS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH LACK OF ANY ACCOMMODATION ON THE PART OF GOA WITH RESPECT PAN AM'S PROBLEM AND SAID HE DOUBTED THAT NOTE WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON. EMBASSY'S NOTE DEC 10 HAD BEEN SENT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES WOULD BE TAKING SOME POSITIVE STEP TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM AND THAT SITUATION INSTEAD HAD GONE FROM BAD TO WORSE. HE POINTED OUT TO RINALDINI THAT IT APPEARED PAN AM MIGHT HAVE TO SUSPEND FLIGHT 515/516 COMPLETELY SINCE: A) URUGUAYANS NOT DISPOSED "FOR SOME REASON" TO CONTINUE TO AUTHORIZE OPERATIONS AT MONTEVIDEO AND B) DNTAC HAD SENT LETTER DATED JAN 23, TO PAN AM SAYING DNTAC COULD NOT CONTINUE TO AUTHORIZE FERRY OPERATIONS INDEFINITELY FROM MONTEVIDEO TO BA. ECOMCOUNS ASKED RINALDINI WHAT WOULD HAPPEN AND WHETHER HE HAD ANY SOLUTION TO PROPOSE SINCE WE COULD HARLY COMMENCE INFORMAL TALKS IF THIS PROBLEM UNRESOLVED AND ESPECIALLY IF PAN AM HAD TO SUSPEND FLIGHT. ECOMCOUNS THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE CONSIDERABLE REACTION IN WASHINGTON TO SUSPENSION OF THIS FLIGHT AND AN ATMOSPHERE HARDLY SUITABLE FOR BILATERAL TALKS WOULD BE CREATED.

4. RINALDINI REACTED AS THOUGH HE DID NOT KNOW DNTAC HAD ASKED PAN AM TO "REGULARIZE ITS OPERATIONS." (COMMENT. WE THINK HE DID KNOW, AND WAS PLAYING A ROLE.) HE ASKED FOR COPY OF DNTAC LETTER TO PAN AM, SAID HE DID NOT REALIZE SITUATION WAS THAT CRITICAL AND SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ECOMCOUNS FEB 3 OR 4 ON THIS SUBJECT. RINALDINI HAD NO FURTHER COMMENT AND EVIDENTLY DID NOT WISH TO PROLONG DISCUSSION.

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5. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH THIS OUTCOME WAS NOT ENTIRELY UNEXPECTED, IT IS DISAPPOINTING TO EMBASSY IN VIEW OF REMARKS MADE BY TRANSPORT UNDERSECRETARY CERRAJERIA IN EARLIER CONVERSATION (REF C) AND REPEATED IN OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH ECOMCOUNS JAN 30. WHILE AMBASSADOR STILL PLANS SEE TRANSPORT SECRETARY NOVARO, WE NOT AT ALL HOPEFUL THAT THIS WILL ALTER THE SITUATION. AS MATTERS NOW STAND IT SEEMS TO US THERE ARE SEVERAL COURSES OPEN:

A) RETALIATE, EITHER NOW OR WHEN PAN AM SUSPENDS FLIGHT 515/516 BY WITHDRAWING SOME RIGHT HELD BY AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS, SUCH AS MIAMI CO-TERMINAL RIGHTS, B) LET SITUATION STAND AS IT IS AND BEGIN INFORMAL TALKS, SZ THAT TIME STATING WE NOT PREPARED TO PURSUE DISCUSSIONS UNTIL PAN AM MATTER RESOLVED OR C) POSTPONE BILATERAL TALKS EITHER BY LEAVING GOA NOTE UNANSWERED OR BY REPLYING THAT OPPORTUNITY DOES NOT SEEM SUITABLE AT THIS TIME TO PIUSUE DISCUSSIONS. ANY COURSE WHICH INVOLVES DELAY WILL COMPOUND PAN AM'S DIFFICULTIES.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. APPRECIATEGUIDANCE SOONEST AS TO ACTION TO BE TAKEN NEXT. EMBASSY'S VIEW AT THIS POINT IS THAT HARD LINE TACTICS ARE REQUIRED BUT DEPT IS IN BETTER POSITION JUDGE HOW THESE MIGHT AFFECT BRANIFF'S INTERESTS AS WELL AS PAN AM HEADQUARTERS VIEWS ON THEIR PROBLEM.

7. TEXT OF NOTE: "THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS... WITH REFERENCE TO THE COMMERCIAL AIR TRANSPORT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA AND THE UNITED STATES, HAS THE PLEASURE TO INFORM THE EMBASSYTHAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS CONSIDERED FAVORABLY THE SUGGESTION MADE IN THE EMBASSY'S NOTE OF DEC 10TH THAT THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN BOTH PARTIES BE RESUMED THROUGH INFORMAL MEETING OF OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA AND THE EMBASSY.

8. "THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA BELIEVES THAT A DIALOGUE SUCH AS PROPOSED SIGNIFIES A POSITIVE STEP TENDING TO DEFINE THE INTERESTS OF BOTH PARTIES WHICH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN FUTURE FORMAL MEETINGS FOLLOWING UP THE MEETING OF CONSULTATION SUSPENDED IN WASHINGTON IN FEB 74 AND AN APPROPRIATE METHOD WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE CARRYING OUT OF A BROAD EXCHANGE OF THE NEEDS OF CARRIERS OF BOTH FLAGS, IN SEARCH OF A JUST AND EQUITABLE SOLUTION FOR THE INTERESTS OF EACH PARTY.

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9. "THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA SUGGESTS THAT THE INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS BEGIN AT A DATE TO BE AGREED AFTER FEB 15 IN THE SUBSECRETARIAT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS OF THIS CHANCERY." END TEXT
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